



# Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Issued Tuesday 3:00 PM; April 17, 2012

For the week ending April 15, 2012

## FIELDWORK AND CROP DEVELOPMENT AT RECORD PROGRESS LEVELS

Corn planting continued at a blistering pace last week and early hay and strawberry harvests began. The wheat crop was in the heading stage. These development events at week’s end were at a record rate that is a full three weeks ahead of the five-year average tempo. Many corn growers reported that they were completely finished planting. Tennessee’s wheat crop and pastures continued in good-to-excellent condition. Frost occurred in many locations but damage assessments were inconclusive as of Sunday. The main farm activities, in addition to corn planting and early hay and strawberry harvest, included fertilizer and pesticide application and scouting fields for freeze damage and threshold pest levels.

There were 6 days suitable for fieldwork across the state. Topsoil moisture levels were rated 1 percent very short, 24 percent short, 71 percent adequate and 4 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 1 percent very short, 18 percent short, 77 percent adequate and 4 percent surplus. Temperatures averaged above normal across the west and middle parts of the state and close to average for the east and plateau regions. Rainfall amounts averaged well below normal across the entire state.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2011	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					Percent					
Apples – Budding or Beyond	95	88	88	90	Pastures	0	3	26	55	16
Apples – Blooming or Beyond	80	62	56	59	Winter Wheat	0	1	15	54	30
Corn – Planted	80	46	17	25						
Corn – Emerged	40	n/a	5	9						
Hay – 1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting	7	n/a	0	0						
Winter Wheat – Jointed	96	85	81	71						
Winter Wheat – Headed	80	n/a	5	7						
Winter Wheat – Top Dressed	96	94	96	94						

n/a = not available

### County Agent Comments

*“Carroll County experienced frost and temperatures of around 31 degrees Wednesday night. It will be several days before we know what if any damage we have to our wheat.”*

**Steven Burgess, Carroll County**

*“We have 200 acres of wheat affected by the wheat mosaic virus.”*

**Walter Battle, Haywood County**

*“Rainfall totals late last week ranged from 0.7" to over 3" depending on location in the county. Some producers were planting corn again as early as Monday of this week, while others started on Wednesday. Nitrogen supply has become a major issue for corn producers as agribusinesses struggle to obtain necessary supplies. Wheat has been treated this week with fungicides and in some locations with insecticides for cereal leaf beetles and aphids.”*

**Jeff Lannom, Weakley County**

*“A couple of frosty nights and another week of no rain have dramatically slowed the progression of crops. Some frost damage was seen and reported across the county, mainly in fruit crops, but overall the damage was minimal. Corn planting has stalled due lack of moisture and pastures/hay are beginning to need rain.”*

**Calvin Bryant, Lawrence County**

*“Freezing temperatures the past 2 nights may have damaged the wheat. Too early to tell at this time.”*

**John Barte, Montgomery County**

*“Frost has injured emerged corn, small grains, home fruit and early planted vegetables.”*

**Bruce Steelman, Cannon County**

*“We got into the upper 20's on the southern portion of the plateau the morning of April 12. The lowest I heard reported was 26 degrees F. Nurseries have reported damage on sensitive plants. Not sure the damage on the fruit crop yet but we are still seeing and hearing of more damage each day.”*

**Creig Kimbro, Grundy County**

*“Freezes this week in low 20's on Thursday and mid 20's on Friday morning in most sections of the county. Damage to fruit crops has not been assessed yet, but anticipate severe damage to peach, apple and grapes.”*

**Rick Thomason, Johnson County**

*“Two cold nights have bitten some plants. Those who used blankets on plants seem to have seen the most damage. Those unprotected plants seem to have had the advantage of the wind. All of the corn I've seen so far looks OK. Corn fields need rain as ground is cracked. Spring hay season has began-farmers are taking advantage of freeze drying.”*

**John Goddard, Loudon County**

*“Producers have begun to plant corn and harvest hay. Strawberries seem to be unaffected by cool temperatures and are 3 to 4 weeks early.”*

**Jerry Lamb, Rhea County**

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION  
For week ending: April 15, 2012 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending April 15, 2012				Current Week 4/15/12	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
West										
Ames_Plantation	82	33	57	-5	0.07	1	10.57	-6.23	0.07	-2.78
Brownsville_TN	82	36	59	-2	0.02	1	10.59	-6.02	0.35	-2.30
Covington	80	35	57	-3	0.00	0	12.64	-3.92	0.50	-2.20
Dyersburg	84	36	60	0	0.00	0	9.74	-5.53	0.60	-1.69
Huntingdon_Wate	81	32	56	-3	0.00	0	9.49	-6.75	0.80	-1.52
Jackson_Exp_Stn	83	33	57	-2	0.00	0	11.24	-4.69	0.30	-2.20
Lexington_TN	77	30	55	-5	0.00	0	11.15	-4.49	0.00	-2.29
Martin	81	34	57	-2	0.00	0	12.54	-3.42	1.78	-0.77
Memphis_AG	84	36	60	-4	0.00	0	11.45	-4.98	0.40	-2.36
Milan	82	32	56	-3	0.00	0	10.89	-5.33	0.38	-2.05
Paris	81	31	55	-3	0.00	0	10.65	-5.49	0.95	-1.51
Savannah_6SW	83	32	57	-5	0.00	0	13.47	-4.87	0.51	-2.19
Selmer	82	32	59	0	0.01	1	12.86	-5.26	0.07	-2.63
Union_City	81	33	55	-3	0.00	0	10.52	-5.23	0.92	-1.48
Middle										
Clarksville_Sew	81	33	56	-1	0.00	0	9.52	-6.63	0.14	-2.19
Cookeville	78	29	51	-5	0.00	0	16.23	-1.29	1.10	-1.22
Crossville_AP	73	29	53	-3	0.00	0	15.29	-2.36	0.78	-1.67
Dickson_AG	80	32	56	-3	0.00	0	12.47	-4.26	0.67	-1.88
Dover_1W	79	31	52	-6	0.00	0	11.51	-5.07	0.82	-1.69
Fayetteville_TN	80	30	57	1	0.00	0	16.51	-1.32	1.52	-0.86
Jamestown	75	26	50	-6	0.00	0	16.22	0.00	0.50	-1.73
Kingston_Spring	80	30	53	-4	0.00	0	12.00	-4.42	1.05	-1.24
Lewisburg	79	23	53	-4	0.00	0	11.32	-5.74	0.63	-1.69
Livingston_WLIV	77	29	52	-6	0.00	0	16.61	0.78	0.36	-1.80
Lobelville	80	29	54	-4	0.00	0	10.74	-6.84	0.08	-2.34
Murfreesboro_5N	78	31	53	-5	0.00	0	12.97	-3.18	0.74	-1.47
Nashville_Metro	79	33	56	-3	0.00	0	12.41	-2.13	1.36	-0.79
Oneida	75	28	50	-4	0.00	0	17.57	1.33	0.67	-1.55
Portland_TN	79	32	54	-3	0.00	0	11.69	-3.95	0.01	-2.17
Pulaski_Water_P	77	30	53	-8	0.00	0	13.23	-4.63	2.00	-0.29
Shelbyville	79	31	56	-3	0.00	0	14.26	-3.11	0.34	-1.98
Sparta_TN	80	28	53	-4	0.00	0	13.35	-3.66	0.37	-1.92
Springfield	79	32	53	-3	0.00	0	12.34	-2.85	0.65	-1.51
Springhill	79	27	53	-4	0.00	0	11.77	-5.55	0.68	-1.85
Tullahoma	78	30	55	-5	0.00	0	13.54	-5.09	0.17	-2.32
Waynesboro_TN	80	27	54	-4	0.00	0	12.87	-5.79	1.03	-1.67
East										
Chattanooga/Lov	79	39	58	-1	0.00	0	15.21	-2.93	0.88	-1.36
Cleveland_6NNE	76	31	53	-5	0.00	0	12.99	-4.97	0.05	-2.18
Dayton	76	33	54	-5	0.00	0	14.85	-3.67	0.52	-1.80
Erwin_1W	78	27	51	-2	0.00	0	12.28	-1.35	1.58	-0.40
Gatlinburg_2SW	78	28	51	-4	0.00	0	19.58	3.33	2.64	0.48
Greeneville	78	26	50	-5	0.00	0	13.62	1.12	2.50	0.81
Kingston_AG	77	32	53	-4	0.00	0	16.21	-2.29	1.23	-1.02
Knoxville_AP	78	33	55	-3	0.00	0	18.57	3.21	2.78	0.88
Newcomb	77	28	49	-4	0.00	0	18.03	1.79	1.57	-0.65
Norris_4NE	77	29	53	-4	0.00	0	19.08	2.87	2.57	0.41
Tri-City_RGNL_A	77	27	52	-3	0.00	0	12.94	0.81	2.21	0.56

DFN = Departure from Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Rain Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more during the week. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) measured in inches.

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The USDA, NASS, Tennessee Field Office gratefully acknowledges contributions to this publication by:  
National Weather Service and the University of Tennessee's Extension.